



WORSLEY URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

INTERIM REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1948.



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Worsley Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor EDWARD HILTON MARSH, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1948.

Councillor ERNEST MANN, Chairman.

Councillor J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman of the Council	Mrs. A. Lightbown, J.P.
Mr. F. S. Potter	Mr. J. Haydock
Mr. A. Williams	Mr. J. Pennington, J.C., C.C.
Mr. J. Eastham, J.P., C.A.	Mrs. M. Wood
Mr. W. A. Richardson	Mr. Ernest Roscoe

Clerk of the Council—

H. LOMAX, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health—

M. K. CARROLL, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., N.U.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

T. ISHERWOOD,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

F. HAWORTH, M.S.I.A.

Lady Clerks and Typists—

Mrs. A. HALLAM.

Miss M. MORRIS.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Worsley.

July, 1949.

It gives me pleasure to present my report for the year ending 1948.

The Birth Rate of 15.3 per 1,000 is lower than that for England and Wales which is 17.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The Ante Natal and Welfare Clinics are still carried out at the various centres where the attendance is excellent.

The Death Rate 12.9 is higher than that for England and Wales which is 10.8 per 1,000. The Infantile mortality rate of 33 per 1,000 is the lowest on record, being lower than the average for England and Wales which is 34 per 1,000.

Immunisation against Diphtheria goes on regularly at the Park Road Clinic and the sessions have been so well attended that there has only been one case of Diphtheria during the year. This infection is becoming a thing of the past, like Small Pox became after Vaccination was made compulsory.

Measles. There has been a severe epidemic of Measles during the year but I am pleased to say the mortality was Nil. The Sulphonamides were used widely and were found of great service in prevention and treatment of respiratory complications.

Polio-myelitis. There have been no cases in this district during the year.

Whooping Cough. There have been a few cases but no epidemic.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Is on the increase. Overcrowding doubtlessly is responsible to a marked degree, as communicable diseases spread more easily in small spaces than in more spacious surroundings. The Local Authority are doing all in their power to overcome the evil, by providing for the rehousing of the overcrowded.

1948. This has indeed been a very famous year because on July 5th we had the inception of the National Health Service Act which is now in full swing and which is providing every type of Medical Service necessary for the nation.

There is the Maternity and Child Welfare.

School Hygiene.

Mental Hygiene.

Industrial Hygiene.

Social Insurance.

Public Health Service.

With such a comprehensive scheme, provided every individual co-operates, I feel sure that the health of the Worsley Urban District would be second to none.

Table I. - STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—7,242 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of:—

(a) resident population mid 1948 ... 26,820

(b) average population for calculation
of death rates 1948 ... 26,820

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1948—8,403.

Rateable Value 1948—£144,563

Sum represented by a penny rate 1948—£544.

Table II. - VITAL STATISTICS, 1948.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—15.3.
Live Births	Legitimate ...	404	204	200	
	Illegitimate ...	8	6	2	
	Total ...	<u>412</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>202</u>	

Still Births ... 9 6 3 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—21.

Deaths (all ages) ... 347 183 164 Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population—12.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis ... Nil.
Other maternal causes 2

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 33
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 125

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 52
,, „ Measles (all ages) ... Nil.
,, „ Whooping-cough (all ages) ... Nil.
,, „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 1

The Birth Rate (15.3) is lower than that for England and Wales (17.9) and the Death Rate (12.9) is higher (10.8).

The Infantile Mortality Rate (33.0) is lower than that for England and Wales (34.0).

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF CAUSES.

						Males	Females
Carcinoma, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
„ other forms	...	...	...	...	...	22	13
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Tuberculosis other forms	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	..	...	2	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	..	...	...	...	3	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	..	2	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	..	...	16	31
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	61	60
Other Diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	10	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Road Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	20	11
						<hr/>	<hr/>
All Causes:—						183	164
TOTAL						...	347

**SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

There has been no important change in these provisions during the year.

The following pathological and bacteriological examinations were made during 1948:

- (1) Diphtheria, 19.
- (2) Scarlet Fever, 6.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, RIVERS AND STREAMS.—

Many streams in the district are polluted.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—

No changes have occurred.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—

A detailed statement of inspections by the Senior Sanitary Inspector is appended.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Defects which have been found or notified have received attention.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) *Licences.* The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938, have been issued:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(1) Bottling	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2) Distribution	...	...	...	Nil.

Accerdated Milk	(1)	Bottling	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2)	Distribution	...	...	...	Nil.
Pasteurised Milk	(1)	Plants	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2)	Retail Distributors	...	...	...	3

(b) *Dairies, Milk Shops.* There are 58 milk purveyors other than cowkeepers. Regular inspections of the premises were made during the year.

(c) *Farms.* There are 29 dairy farms and 565 cows in the District. All the farms were inspected at least twice during the year with a view to cleanliness, lime-washing and structural condition. The cleanliness of the cows and of the milkers was also watched, together with methods for sterilising the utensils, cooling, bottling and sterilising the milk. Scarcity of labour has been blamed for a lower standard of cleanliness, particularly with regard to milk bottles. This is receiving special attention.

(d) *Samples.*

(1) For tuberculous milk—35 samples were taken.

34 were found to be free from Tubercle Bacilli.

(2) For bacterial content—

(a) 50 samples Methylene Blue test.

3 were unsatisfactory.

(b) 50 samples B Coli test.

4 were unsatisfactory.

The farms producing milk with a high bacterial content were visited and instructions given.

MEAT SUPPLY.

All local slaughter-houses ceased to be used on Sunday midnight, the 14th January, 1940.

BAKEHOUSES, FOOD SHOPS, FISH FRYERS, AND MEAT SHOPS.—

Routine inspections have been made during the year. There are no unusual circumstances to report.

**Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control Over,
Infectious Disease.**

Table IV.

Disease	Corr'cted Total of notified cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	108	56	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1	1	—
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	410	—	—
Whooping cough	25	—	—
Erysipelas... ..	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	—	—
 Total number of cases ...	 552	 58	 1

TABLE V.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1948.

DISEASE.	Total cases at all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.												Age un-known
		Under 1 yr.	YEARS.									65 and over		
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		45-65	
Scarlet Fever ...	108	1	2	5	8	21	41	19	7	1	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding German Measles ...	410	10	51	36	47	101	158	4	—	1	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough...	25	2	2	4	3	4	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	552	15	55	45	58	126	209	24	7	4	5	4	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The actual numbers of children immunised under the Council's scheme during 1948 are as follows :—

Age 1—5 years	Age 5—15 years	Total.
341	151	492

Percentage of children immunised :

			Age 1—5 years	Age 5—15 years.
31st December, 1945	...	...	63%	62%
31st December, 1946	...	...	65%	88%
31st December, 1947	...	...	55%	86.5%
31st December, 1948	...	...	59%	80%

By arrangement with the County Police, diphtheria antitoxin is stored at Walkden Police Station, as well as at the Town Hall. It is available day and night for doctors in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table VII.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry		Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry'	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years	0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	1—5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	5—10	...	...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
„	10—15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	15—20	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	20—25	...	...	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
„	25—35	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
„	35—45	...	...	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
„	45—55	...	...	5	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
„	55—65	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
„	65 & upwards	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals				16	7	3	1	7	4	—	—
				27				11			

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1940-42.

These Regulations require particulars of all persons of certain specified ages who have been on the Tuberculosis Register to be forwarded to the Ministry of Labour; the object is to draw the attention of the Medical Boards for enlistment in His Majesty's Forces. There were no cases notified in 1948.

CANAL BOATS.

Twenty-one inspections were made during the year and conditions found to be satisfactory. No women or children were living on board the boats; in no case was there more than one male living on board. No infectious disease occurred and there was no contravention of any of the regulations.

M. K. CARROLL,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1948.

Town Hall,
Walkden.

July, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of
Worsley Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during 1948.

This has been an important year in the history of the health services of the Country. The introduction of the National Health Service in July has already brought about many changes, and is causing us to revise our outlook and modify our methods to the altering conditions.

The taking over of the Ambulance Service was our first and greatest change, for although we were asked to continue to operate the service, it ceased to be a private service, and all the patients were carried free of charge. This, coupled with the extended Hospital Services, increased the demand for the Ambulance, and although working to capacity at times, we were able to maintain the service and supply all requirements with the minimum of friction.

The Ambulance of the National Coal Board continued to co-operate and made 887 journeys during the year. Our cars for sitting cases made 1,155 journeys, and the combined service carried over 2,000 patients to hospital for treatment.

Housing is still proceeding, 51 houses were built by the Local Authority and 7 by private enterprise, which leaves the overcrowding situation very similar to that of 1947. The requirements, according to the Housing Manager, who has supplied me with the information, being as follows :—

Single persons or aged persons, Bungalows or Maisonettes	172
Houses, with two bedrooms	196
Houses, with three bedrooms	186
Houses, with four bedrooms	30
Total	584

There were 58 houses in hand at the end of the year and another 76 were contemplated.

Materials and labour for the repair and decoration of houses are now more plentiful, but many of the owners are very reluctant to put the property in a reasonable state of repair. Legal action may have to be taken to compel some of them to realise their responsibilities, or the work done for them in default, under the Housing Acts.

There is a decided improvement in the quality of the tinned food coming into the shops. Much of the food condemned in 1947 had been released from war time stocks stored in buffer depots, but this source appears to have been exhausted and freshly canned food is being supplied.

The total surrendered from the retail shops was 8 cwts. 16 lbs. This is quite moderate when compared with the amount consumed in the district.

A large consignment of Tomato Puree intended for manufacture into soups, etc., was found to be unfit and was surrendered by the firm and destroyed, and a quantity of meat from Canteens and Feeding Centres was also dealt with in a similar manner.

Salvage collection again shows an increase on preceding years although Kitchen Waste is steadily declining. This is due chiefly to private collection and the increase in domestic poultry keeping.

The total value of the salvage sold was £1,045 13s. 9d., compared with £910 13s. 4d. in 1947.

Towards the close of the year the bonus scheme for the men engaged on the collection of salvage was introduced, as was also the 44 hours week. Beyond stating that both appear to be working smoothly and satisfactorily it is too early to give details.

Routine milk sampling for biological tests, bacteriological examination and sediment tests was carried out by our department; 35 samples were submitted for Tuberculosis examination and only one sample was positive. The cow from which the milk was taken was identified and disposed of according to the Regulations.

Of 50 samples tested by Methylene Blue, 47 were satisfactory, and of 50 examined for the presence of Coliform Bacillus 46 were satisfactory. These both show a marked improvement over 1947.

Several Food and Drug samples were taken by the County Inspectors during the year, always with our knowledge and co-operation and all proved to be up to the required standards.

There was an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered on licence during the year, particularly during Christmas week. One slaughter-house has been allocated for this purpose and all the animals slaughtered there were notified and inspected. The standard was quite satisfactory.

The routine work is proceeding normally. Every genuine complaint is investigated and we try to get defects remedied. We get scores of complaints with which we have no powers to deal; neighbours' squabbles, differences between landlord and tenant, dogs barking, wireless and other noises, and differences which can only be settled either privately or through the Civil Courts.

These are always unsatisfactory both to us and the people concerned, for most people have the idea that we must deal with everything which they consider to be a nuisance. The old title "Inspector of Nuisances" will never die. Like the old soldier, it will have to fade away.

We are issuing the usual licences for petroleum, milk, ice cream, hawkers' premises and slaughter-men. Farms, shops, canal boats, factories, workshops, schools, bakehouses and food preparing premises are visited and kept under observation, all of which are being conducted in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

We have had two new C.K.3 Karrier wagons of the latest type which incorporate seating accommodation for the loaders as well as the driver. With the increase in the number of new houses our collection of refuse has been raised, and is now about 6,000 tons each year, which is disposed of by controlled tipping at Berryfield Tip.

The emission of smoke from the railways, factories and mines is a nuisance in this area.

The close proximity of the mineral lines to the houses causes smuts, dirt and grit to be deposited, but the worst feature is the cloud of smoke which is always present over some part of the district, shutting out the sun's most beneficial ultra-violet rays. Much of this comes from sources outside the Worsley Authority and is difficult to combat. Many firms in the district are encouraging their engineers and firemen to attend classes on fuel consumption and control and are co-operating with Local Authorities towards smoke abatement. The present fuel shortage makes the problem very difficult.

The only effective way of dealing with the smoke problem in this part of Lancashire is by Regional Control and I would welcome closer co-operation with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, as well as the National Smoke Abatement Society.

The attached lists give some indication of the activities of the department.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Houses inspected for defects	217
Housing inspections for above	868
Number rendered fit	200
Defective chimneys	7
Defective plaster	57
Damp Walls	58
Defective roofs	30
Defective pointing	25
Defective gutters	21
Firerange or ovens	18
Defective rainwater pipes	7
Defective washboilers	7
Rats	29
Defective dustbins	14
Mice	4
Water under floors and in cellars	15
Defective garden paths and yard pavings	7
Defective doors	7
Defective window frames and sashcords	33
Choked and defective drains	36
Defective W.C.'s.	23
Defective yard walls	1
Foul smells	2
Escapes of coal gas	8
Defective floors	12
Cracked and bulging walls	5
Cockroaches, etc.	7
Skirting boards	2
Defective sink	1
Miscellaneous	107
Canal boats	21
Dairies	58
Schools	9
Factories	8
Farms	62
Bakehouses	53
Shops	47
Infectious Diseases	109
Tuberculosis	38
Disinfections	130

CONDEMNED FOOD.

	Tins	cwts	lbs.	oz.
Marmalade	463	2	60	8
Pilchards	3		2	0
Evaporated Milk	37		43	10
Apricots	3		15	2
Pork	5		5	14
Gooseberries	1		1	4
Fish Paste	3			12
Salmon	2		1	0
Meat Lunch	2		1	8
Stewed Steak	2		2	0
Irish Stew	2		2	0
Peas	17		24	0
Plums	5		6	8
Beans	11		9	9
Condensed Milk	2		2	0
Brisket Beef	1		4	0
Fruit Salad	1		1	8
Vegetable Soup	1		1	0
Oats	2 Pkts.		4	0
"Pom" Potatoes	1			12
Shredded Wheat	1			12
Creamola Pudding	1			8
Cake Mixture	15		7	8
Table Dessert Sauce	32		6	0
Chocolate Spread	16		2	0
Flour	2 Bags		6	0
Butter			37	4
Tea			6	8
Jam	2 Jars		3	8
Prunes	1 Box		25	0
Dates	1		29	0
Cod Fillet			73	8
Cheese			33	6
Dried Onions		2	21	0
Bacon			18	8
Margarine			5	0
Total			8	14
				5

All the above were surrendered by retail dealers. In addition a consignment of Tomato Purée weighing 5 tons 15 cwts. 16 lbs. 15 oz. intended for manufacture was surrendered and also 4 cwts. 82 lbs. of Meat from Feeding Centres and Canteens which was considered to be unsafe for consumption.

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR 1948 WAS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:—

Material	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	160	8	2	0	899	19	9
Black Scrap	2	17	2	0	5	0	7
Textiles	4	12	0	0	27	10	0
Kitchen Waste	72	19	1	0	109	9	3
Bones		12	1	0	3	7	6
Aluminium				40	0	6	8
Total	241	9	2	40	1045	13	9

Month	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
January	24	0	3	0	101	7	4
February	16	16	1	0	71	8	3
March	17	5	0	0	71	4	3
April	23	0	0	0	99	12	5
May	22	10	3	0	87	1	11
June	18	2	2	0	81	16	3
July	22	2	2	0	101	15	8
August	17	9	2	0	79	4	8
September	17	1	2	0	76	2	10
October	20	5	0	0	83	12	9
November	20	14	3	40	95	2	7
December	22	1	0	0	97	4	10
Total	241	9	2	40	1045	13	9

As in previous years the success and smooth running of the department is due to the interest and co-operation of all concerned. To Dr.

Carroll; to every member of the Staff; and to the Officers in other Departments whose assistance is always most readily given whenever we need their services.

To these and all who interested themselves in our welfare, I tender my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ISHERWOOD,

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

